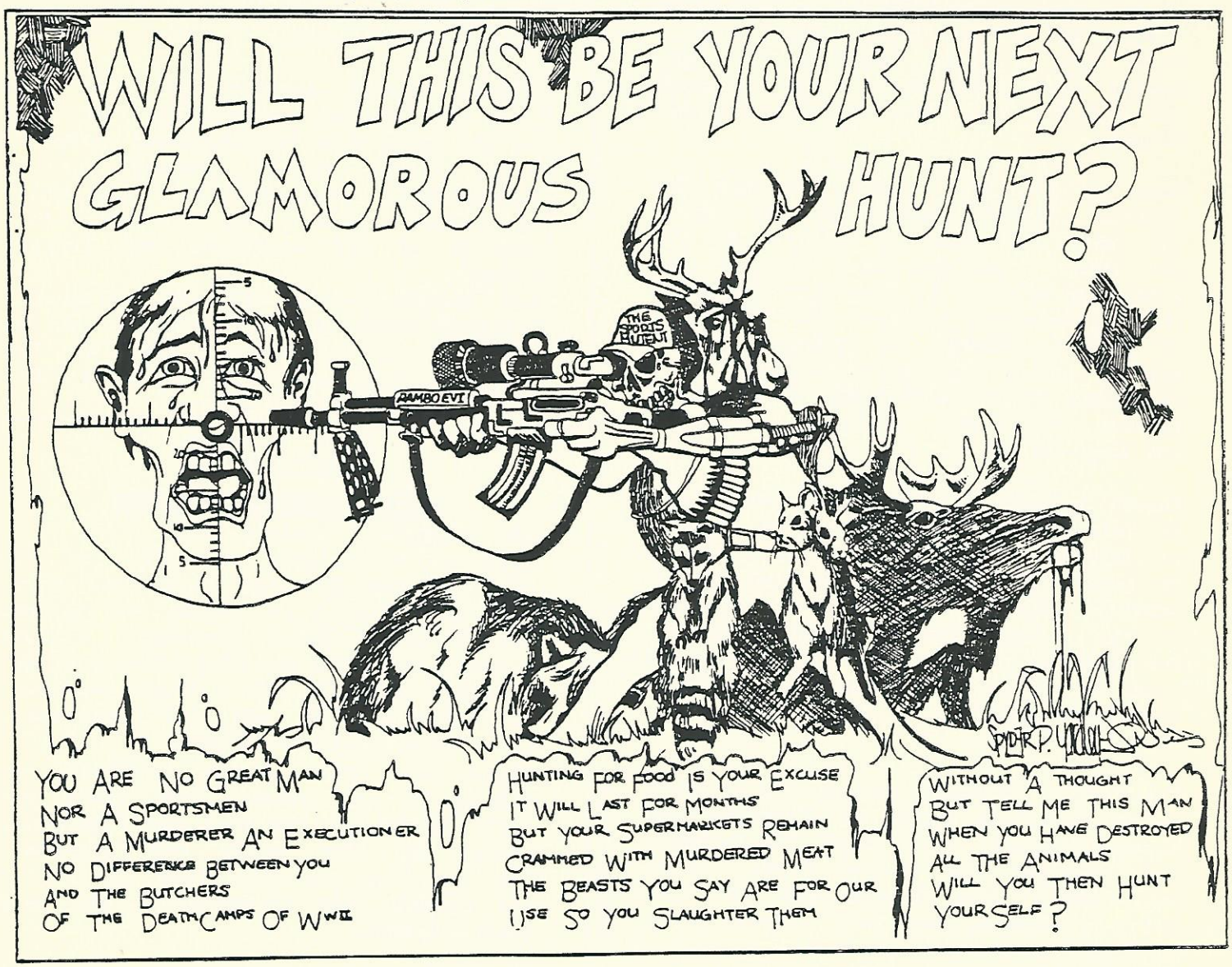
A.L.F. CANADA issue no. 2

FRONT LINE NEWS

P.O. Box 915, Station F, Toronto, Ont. M4Y 2N9 Canada



Sports Huntsmen: Lyrics By: Social Suicide

If you go out in the woods today you're in for a big surprise,
If you go out in the woods today you'd better go in disguise.
For every hunter that ever there was will gather there for surely because,
Today's the day that sportsmen have their picnic.

If you go out in the woods today you're in for a big surprise,
If you go out in the woods today you'd better go in disguise,
You'd better wear your orange jacket,
You'd better wear your orange jacket,
Sports, sports, sports, sports huntsmen.

If you go into the woods today you'd better stay on the path
Step on a twig or make a noise you've got lead up your ass.
Their trigger fingers are happy
Their trigger fingers are happy.
Sports, sports, sports, sports huntsmen.

Picnic time for teddy bear, the little teddy bears are having a lovely time today
If you went down to see the bears today you should've stayed home instead,
'Cause the hunters got up real early today and now Teddy Bear is dead.
It's beddie-byes for Teddy Bear,
It's beddie-byes for Teddy Bear,
Sports, sports, sports, sports huntsmen,
At six o'clock their mommies and daddies tuck them into bed, because they're tired little Teddy Bears.

"Fighting in the front lines for Animal Liberation"

Well, we've made it to Issue #2 of Front Line News, and as you can see we've grown quite quickly since our first issue. As usual, we are requesting a (minimum) donation of $10 per year, to receive the newsletter. This amount will barely cover printing and postage costs, so if you can afford to give more (and I know some of you can) please do! The more money we have for F.L.N., the more we have for the animals.

Some of you have begun receiving the British ALF-SG Newsletter as well, for which we asked a minimum of $20 per year. We now have to ask for a minimum of $25, as they have increased their newsletter by over 50% (in terms of pages), making our reprinting and postage costs that much higher. We recommend their newsletter as a vital source for news, critique, actions, and inspiration!

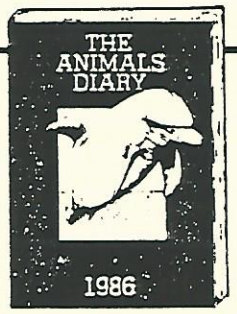
Thanks go out to all those who helped on this issue - from writing to typing, to layout and xeroxing. Also, thanks to everyone who came out to our recent benefit, and to those who helped make it the success that it was. We are now gearing up for our Bazaar, to be held in April, for which we need your continued support. (See notice in this issue).

What we're working toward, is a good solid base, in terms of finances and support people, from which ALF actions can continue and thrive from. With your help, more liberations will be able to happen, and more animals will be free from torture and death.

Designed and published by ANIMUS in London, England. **The Animals Diary** is truly a unique item. Using photos, drawings and cartoons, many produced especially for the book, **The Animals Diary** mingles animal rights awareness with a 1986 calendar/ datebook.

Each double-page spread shows one week of the year, with room to write notes and appointments, plus an illustration. Also included are sections with recommended readings, animal protection groups worldwide, first-aid for wild birds, cruelty-free cosmetics, plus a special "Feed the world" spread addressing the world hunger issue.

128 pages (8¼ × 5½) with laminated cover



Order from the S.G. for $7.95

*Front cover graphic by Paul Yardley-Jones

FRONT LINE NEWS is published periodically by the Animal Liberation Front Support Group (Canada), and is available by mail for a minimum donation of $10 a year. Material in F.L.N. is either written by S.G. members or passed on to us anonymously. All our records of authors and activists are automatically destroyed.

Support Group members do not take part in illegal activities; we pass on ALF news for informational purposes only! The ALF-SG (Canada) is an autonomous organization informally affiliated with the international network of ALF activists and Support Groups.

FLN welcomes your articles, graphics, letters, comments and critiques, action reports, etc. Address them to the S.G. at P.O. Box 915, Station 'F', Toronto, Ontario M4Y 2N9.

S.G. NEWS

ALF Benefit Success!!

On Saturday, January 18th, the S.G. held a fundraising benefit for the ALF, at the Starwood Club, the first ever of its kind in Canada, and perhaps the first in North America. Without a doubt, the show was an amazing success, raising over $1,350 (after expenses) for the animals and ALF Activists. (Including a $100 donation).

There were many people involved who helped in all areas; from those who took control of the door and literature tables to the bands and soundman. I'm sure we couldn't have pulled it off without the co-operation and help from everyone.

Four bands played: Violence and the Sacred opened, followed by Was Ist Los, Mike Marley and the Sailors, and closing the show were Social Suicide. Basically, the music was hardcore punk with some "rock-n-roll" coming from Was Ist Los and theatrical-industrial performances from Violence and the Sacred. On an unfortunate note regarding the latter band, we couldn't get it together enough to record the concert, of which Violence and the Sacred were to release their live recording on a tape.

Cont'd....

Experimental videos were shown before the show and during the first set. The controversial video "Faces of Death" was shown, one which the Animals' Agenda notes in their Jan./Feb. 1986 issue as "vile...that graphically documents incidents of human and animal torture and death...". The controversial aspect of the video is the suspicion that some scenes of animal torture and death "appear to have been created specifically for the production...". By showing this video (with the sound off), the S.G. is in no way condoning this kind of atrocity happening for the sake of film or "art". We felt that quite the opposite would be conveyed; that people would get angry and outraged at what they viewed.

The ALF/PETA video "Unnecessary Fuss" was shown at 11 p.m. Unfortunately, the wires enabling us to put the sound through the main system were taken away (for unknown reasons), so only 40 or 50 people were able to hear the soundtrack off the machine. About 100 people watched the video.

An S.G. member from Kitchener came down bringing video equipment, and recorded about 40 minutes of the show. This footage will be part of a documentary he is putting together about the ALF and the S.G. (See the "Video Notice" elsewhere in this publication.)

For those interested in numbers, I would say about 400 people attended the benefit, all being given leaflets and other literature. The literature tables brought in about $250, mostly from the sale of T-Shirts. (Thanks to the people who donated original ALF T-Shirts at cost!)

Publicity and postering before the show was really excellent. It was mentioned in two Toronto alternative/entertainment publications (Now and Nerve), plus being mentioned in the Toronto Star's "What's On" section. CKLN-FM 88.1 gave us good support, with individual D.J.'s mentioning the show. It was listed on their entertainment listing, and we had interviews on two different shows. (I'd like to note that we received insignificant support from the Hardcore Show, a show one would expect great support from, given the political nature of our event.) We also had mentions on York University Radio (an S.G. member's show) and as well, in the Ryerson Eyeopener newspaper.

Posters for the show were noticeably ripped down a day after being put up, but since we had people constantly putting them up again, it made little difference.

Back to the show -- The atmosphere was amazing as people knew what they were there for, obviously agreeing with animal liberation. A couple of fights broke out outside the club including a certain group of "skins" (macho teenagers) who were not a part of the benefit. These fights plus a housefire nearby brought a couple of cops inside, prepared to assert their authority. One got particularly aggressive when he was asked to pay the cover charge, by two people in succession! He was quickly calmed down with reason, logic and bullshit! They left after ten minutes without getting any further than the front door and without getting anyone's real name or I.D. in their Big Brother notepads. One also received a lesson in punk-politics compared to skinhead-politics!

When the bar ran out of beer and then started to run out of hard liquor, the owners figured it was a good night for them and asked one of our organizers to "do more of these shows!" So, benefits on a semi-regular basis could be a reality in the near future. (If anyone is SERIOUSLY interested in benefits-organizing, contact us!) As well, some people are talking about setting up literature tables at gigs not organized as benefits, but just to get the information out.

All in all, it was a success in every way, and sincere thanks go out to all those who helped out. It was a night of major direct-action outreaching, one which we can do quite a few more of!

Freebird

S.G. NEWS Cont'd....

Support Group Video:

The ALF Support Group is making a video. The 20-minute video will consist of information about the Support Group, reasons why the group was formed and information on how to become involved in animal liberation.

However, I can't do this video without your help. What I need are fairly safe locations to film examples of abuses, and information about abuse in different areas. Also, if you have access to any film or slides dealing with animal liberation, they would be appreciated. New ideas are always welcome!
If you are interested in this project, I can be contacted through the ALF Supporters' Group. Remember, this is your video; the Support Group can't grow without your help. I'll look forward to hearing from you!

Padlock Politics, Producer

LAB ANIMALS/ANTI-FUR PROTESTS

For those interested in taking part in symbolic actions and protest, there will be an organizing meeting for World Day For Laboratory Animals and Anti-Fur Action at the Church Street Community Centre (519 Church Street) at 1 p.m. on Saturday, March 8, 1986.

"BIRD" NEEDS A NEW HOME!

Is there anyone who has an aviary, or a similar large structure, who is willing to house a male Ring-dove? This beautiful white bird is approximately 4 years old, was born and raised in captivity, and is now seeking a residence (larger than the four square feet he now lives in.) He needs a home where he can fly around, as he has been deprived of using this natural ability all his life, and subsequently needs lots of practice. **If you think you are able to help out, please write to "Bird", c/o the Support Group.**

A.L.F. SUPPORT GROUP BAZAAR

As mentioned in the first issue of Frontline News, the S.G. Group is planning a Bazaar in the Spring. The date of the event has been changed and is now (DEFINITELY) Saturday, April 5, 1986 at Trinity-St. Paul's United Church, 427 Bloor Street West.

The response to our request for help has been minimal, to say the least; only four people; the response to our request for saleable items has been even less!

People, perhaps you cannot make a public speech on behalf of animal rights, or take part in a demonstration, rally, or civil disobedience. But is it too much to ask that you clean out a closet to donate one item or stand behind a table for a few hours during the Bazaar? That is all we are asking you to commit yourselves to for the animals - not too much, is it?

We also have the Church from 7 p.m. to 10 p.m. on Friday, April 4th to set up the tables. Help would also be welcomed then. Nearer the date the S.G. will distribute a flyer, which you can post to advertise the event.

We have a storage area for items! Please write and tell us where we can make pick-ups, or if you can deliver your donation yourself. **Remember this is not for us, it's for the animals!**

Store fined $1,750 for mistreating pets

JAN 5/86 STAR

EDMONTON (CP) — A pet store has been ordered to pay fines totalling $1,750 after five animals died or needed emergency care shortly after being purchased. The Pet City store in Edmonton's Heritage Mall was convicted on five charges of failing to care properly for animals. Court was told that kittens and dogs bought from the shop were malnourished, dehydrated and lacking treatment for obvious illnesses.

It's disgusting that five animals die of neglect and this poxy store stays in business.

ANIMALS HAVE RIGHTS

Recent Media .... The Good, The Bad, The Ugly

By: Freebird

It is true that the animal "rights" issue is receiving more publicity in newspapers, and more magazines, as well, are devoting pages to the issue. Looking over the last few months, three magazines have given space to the issue: a very supportive editorial entitled "Torturing Animals: What's Next?" (By Peter Worthington) appeared in the November 1985 issue of Influence magazine; a liberalish, pro-legislative article entitled "The Fur Trade: Must It Die of Shame?" (by John Dyson) appeared in the December 1985 issue of Readers' Digest; and a ridiculously ignorant article appeared in the January 1986 issue of Saturday Night magazine entitled "Monkey Business" (By Robert Fulford).

Peter Worthington has previously made known his support for animal "rights" in earlier articles, so his editorial comes with little surprise. He makes some excellent and strong remarks that one doesn't usually see in any mainstream, glossy publications. Although he "accepts the need for some research using animals", his editorial touches on the horrors of cosmetic testing, the use of baboons at the University of Western Ontario, pain research and the Head-Injury Laboratory and break-in. He describes the labs as the "Auschwitzes and Belsens of modern society", and asks these questions; "(Do researchers) develop a self-protecting callousness? Just as those who performed medical experiments in the Nazi era became hardened to human suffering....do animal researchers develop a similar immunity to the pain of others?" At the end of his editorial he notes the parallels between speciesism and racism, and gives support to the new book "In Defense of Animals" (edited by Peter Singer, and available from the S.G. for $6.95).

John Dyson's article in the Readers' Digest gives the reader good information on the kinds of traps used and supports the banning of the leghold trap. He believes that the economic benefits are more important than animal lives, and he uses the (tired) argument of "native people clinging to subsistence lifestyles" to defend his point of view. Here are some of his more ludicrous comments: "A good trapper can plan his harvests, like a wildlife farmer", or "Unless the brutality is eradicated, the Fur Market will wither to nothing". How do you take the brutality out of murder? With "nice" traps?! The article did give publicity to some of the actions and campaigns that have happened and the following are those excerpted paragraphs:

Anti-fur activists seem to be shifting from a policy of conservation and wise use of animals toward protection and no use. One million British households have been mailed appeals by the Royal Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals (RSPCA) for help "to take the cruelty out of fashion." The immediate aim is to cut demand for fur by one third. The RSPCA's chief wildlife officer, Stefan Ormrod, says: "A moral revolution is sweeping Europe, and I'm afraid the fur trade will be its victim."

The campaigns in Europe are bolstered by Canadian groups. In June 1985 the Ontario Humane Society (OHS) dropped its long-standing commitment to work toward more humane trapping and called for abolition of all trapping. "The cruelty on the traplines in just one day exceeds ten years of the seal hunt," says president Tom Hughes. "It's nonsense to imagine it will ever become humane, so the only answer is to ban it." Says George Clements of the Vancouver-based Association for the Protection of Fur-Bearing Animals, whose film *Canada's Shame* was recently shown widely in Europe: "Our aim is to tell consumers how every soft pelt that makes a fur coat bleeds and hurts before it dies."

The feeling against fur is fueled by other animal-rights campaigns. In Britain fox hunts and angling contests have been disrupted, and there have been assaults, including a firebomb attack, on scientists using animals for cancer research. Animal-rights splinter groups have sent a parcel bomb to Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher and — apparently to protest the seal hunt — an explosive device to the Canadian High Commission in London. In Europe furrier shops have been vandalized, fur farms attacked and animals released. Women wearing furs have been spat on or spray-painted in the streets.

In Toronto last April fur merchants Andrew and Steven Goodman found "No More Death" spray-painted over their windows, and red "blood" streaming from the doorway.

But fur trapping, this oldest and most traditional of Canadian enterprises, is threatened with extinction. The same strident international protest movement that effectively killed off the Newfoundland seal hunt is intent on wiping out the fur trade. The president of the Fur Council of Canada, Victor Topper of Toronto, says: "The fur industry is in a fight for its life."

A giant Greenpeace billboard that was displayed on British streets showed an elegant woman trailing a fur coat, its hem streaming a river of blood. The caption: "It takes up to 40 dumb animals to make a fur coat. But only one to wear it."

Anti-fur campaigns played a major role (along with other market factors) in reducing direct exports of Canadian raw fur to Europe from $159 million in 1981 to $77 million in 1984. Europe is *the* market for Canadian wild fur, because that is where 85 percent of pelts are ultimately retailed as garments. The Fur Council's Topper says: "In three years we've seen the Swiss market decline by a third, West German sales by two thirds, and in France, Holland and Belgium the market has virtually dried up. Now the U.K. is on the hit list."

THWAP! The sudden night noise in the marsh is followed by a squeal and a splash. A muskrat has stepped on the trigger of a leg-hold trap, springing the jaws shut on a forepaw.

Steel jaws locked on its paw, the muskrat in the trap dives for safety into the water. The trap slides down the wire and a device prevents the creature from returning to the surface for breath. Its nostrils, ears and mouth close to block out the water and within about four minutes it is dead of carbon-dioxide poisoning. The muskrat's pelt will fetch about $8, ultimately becoming the 40th part of a coat retailing for $1,800.

Cont'd on page 13

ALF Members Fined, Restricted

Following the raid on the City of Hope National Medical Research Centre last year, two people were arrested on burglary and stolen property charges after the police received a tip. Carole and Brude Jodar pleaded "no contest" apparently due to Carol's declining health (she suffers from Multiple Sclerosis). They admitted harbouring 12 rabbits taken by the ALF from the Medical Centre.

The judge gave them both probation sentences (rather than three-year jail terms), ordered Brude to do 360 hours of community service and ordered Carol to pay a $10,000 fine TO THE CITY OF HOPE RESEARCH CENTRE! On top of this outrageous sentence is the equally disgusting ruling that the Jodars are not allowed to affiliate with an animal rights organization for the next three years! We don't have any further news, but we hope that the Jodars will appeal their sentences.

How To Avoid Speciesist Words And Phrases

The Blacker Family in New York has sent out a letter addressed to "All Animal Rights Activists" regarding the use of words in our movement, and how to use them to our benefit. Not only should we use them to advance animal liberation, but we should be bringing reality into clearer focus; the era of Big Brother's "Peacekeeper" nuclear missiles, the "Free World" and smiling bureaucrats is also the era of "animal resources", "medical research" and smiling McChickens on your TV.

The following has been slightly edited, without altering the Blackers' ideas:

SPEAK AND WRITE ABOUT ANIMALS WITH UPLIFTING (NOT DOWNGRADING) WORDS THAT INDICATE RESPECT FOR THEIR RIGHT TO LIVE IN PEACE AS LIVING BEINGS.

Never refer to humans as the animals' "owners" or "masters". Humans are the animals' "companions".

Animals are not "things", "property" or "slaves". So, let's stop referring to the animal as "it"... because that implies something inferior to a living, feeling creature. Instead, refer to the animal as "she/he" or "her/his", even if you don't know the sex of the animal.

Don't call animals "living things". They are "living beings".

Let's stop saying "that" or "which" when we should be saying "who".

Refer to non-domestic animals as "free-roaming... not "wild".

WHEN YOU REFER TO ANIMALS' SUFFERING AND DEATH INFLICTED BY HUMANS, USE PAINFULLY EXPLICIT WORDS THAT REVEAL THE TRUE, GRISLY FACTS.

Stop using the following evasive, misleading words: "Euthanize", "Put To Sleep", "Sacrifice", "Destroy" - all favourites of brutal experimenters-on-animals, pounds and even shelters. "Cull", "Harvest", "Manage", "Thinning out the herd", "maximum sustainable yield" (MSY), "Optimum sustainable population" - favourites of hunters, trappers and their ilk. **All these words mean "KILL" and "MURDER", so say "KILL" and "MURDER".**

Instead of saying "take" animals, use the understandable words, "hunt, harass, maim, kill, capture" animals.

Humans try to cover up their horrifying cruelties against animals with deceptive euphemisms (like the preceding). Don't let them get away with their attempts to lull unsuspecting people into misunderstanding their barbaric crimes. **Say it like it is so that people will realize the horrors that humans inflict on animals.**

On a final note: To quote Vicki Miller of ARK II (as mentioned in the Jan./Feb. 1986 issue of the Animals' Agenda), "...over the next decade, I expect that the term "animal rights" will be replaced by the less esoteric one, "animal liberation..." Let's hope so!

Why I Care

(This article is dedicated to all those who know me but don't understand why I give my time and effort for Animal Liberation.)

It was at a Mobilization For Animals literature table in a shopping mall when the animal rights movement first entered my life. A poster of a cat in a restraining device, in God only knows how much pain, had drawn my attention. All the feeling had left my soul; I felt ashamed of being human. I felt hatred toward those who had caused the suffering. Wanting to do something, it was then that I became involved.

The helplessness of that cat had made me see something I wasn't aware of. I stared at the poster for a long time, sorting out a lot of feelings. I left for home after making a donation, taking some literature and with a changed attitude.

That scene haunted me! It wasn't moral. A cat is a free creature by nature, independent and proud. To restrain such an animal like that, I felt, just wasn't right.

I had taken in a stray only a few weeks before and the thought of my new friend in a torture device like that scared me into rethinking my personal views of the animal rights issue. It involved changing my lifestyle to the same degree as my new thoughts of morality.

To my family, friends and neighbours I preach animal rights. Making the pitch for the cause. Nothing is as sweet as helping a friend to see the light.

The use of animals is so widespread - touching almost all aspects of human existence - that it is not surprising to find attitudes that differ so much, even among those on the same side of an issue. The dreams, goals and realities of animal liberation vary from individual to individual.

I have seen small differences in policy come between very committed people. Any forward step, even a small one, is a positive step towards the final goal. We must continue to pull together. There has to be a feeling of being committed; it helps one to keep going to meetings, demonstrations and direct actions.

And I dream, I dream often. I dream for the future. A time when the word trapline falls into disuse, when all food is born of the soil, when 'sport' no longer involves the death of one participant, a time when the laboratory walls no longer echo with unheard screams. I dream for the judgement day!

I am involved in this cause to end the suffering. And someday I know we will succeed. But I became involved when an image of horror shook me from complaceny.

P.S. The FRONTLINE NEWS is a special paper. I know all of you who read it care very deeply. God bless you!

David J.

Pet rat defends woman's honor

JULY 10/85

FRANKFURT (Reuter) — A pet rat defended her owner against a body search when it bit a policewoman reaching under her blouse, police said yesterday.

The unidentified young woman was searched during a regular Sunday walk-about protesting a new runway at Frankfurt airport, a police spokesman said. When the policewoman reached under her blouse, "the rat apparently got aggressive" and dug its teeth into a finger, he said. Young people from the punk scene carrying pet rats in the streets have recently become a common sight in West Germany.

Research Fraud Continues

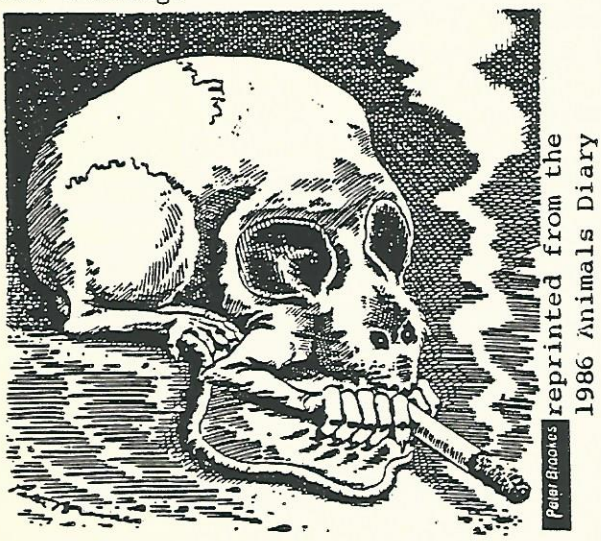
Consider the following: One set of "researchers" intentionally cause cancer in hampsters by injecting them with derivatives of nicotine, in an attempt to "reduce the risk of cancer" for smokers, former smokers and non-smokers forced to breathe the smoke. Another set of "researchers" cause cancer in rats in an attempt to find a cure for ulcers, by giving them doses of chemicals 500 times the norm over a two-year period. They claim it won't cause cancer in humans.

Cont'd....

In another "research" project, rats were given access to unlimited amounts of heroin and cocaine, by way of tubes in their necks, in order to determine that cocaine is more deadlier based on the amount of dead rats.

Do these seem like worthwhile projects to you? Or are these more examples of "make-work/make-money" projects for a supposed well-meaning profession, expertly duping an all-believing, consumerist public?

In the first example above, the researchers at Laval Hospital in Quebec City are trying to find a way to reduce the risk of cancer for smokers and those affected by cigarette smoke. In this waste of money and animal lives, they are ignoring the obvious solution - spend more time and energy on publicizing the killer effects of cigarettes and the whole cash-crop, deforestation industry and attack the huge multi-national tobacco companies that are exploiting and killing us with their products. Reduce the "risk" by not smoking.



In the second example, Astra (a Swedish Pharmaceutical Company) is trying to market its anti-ulcer drugs claiming that the cancer caused in rats as a result of their experiments will not appear in humans. These companies spend a lot of money telling us how animal "research" is necessary and valid, but when their tests reveal cancerous side-effects, they will quickly turn around and say that it's a different situation, as Astra has done. Anyone with common sense can foresee disastrous side-effects with doses 500 times the norm. Astra is desperately trying to maintain its hold on a $3 billion market with "new-and-improved" drugs, regardless of its research results.

In the third example, money and animal lives are spent trying to determine which of two poisons will kill rats faster, and they say this study applies to humans. Another ludicrous make-work project! Have you seen anyone with pure heroin or cocaine being continuously injected via a tube in their neck, walking down the street lately?

In a July 7, 1985 article in the York Sunday News, (York, PA), Dr Peter Gott lists quite a few vivisectors who have produced fraudulent studies based on "Fixed" research. He lists 6 "researchers" with a combined total of 162 papers or experiments that have been found fraudulent or suspect, including cancer immunology and heart experiments. Frauds have occurred at Columbia University, Yale and Harvard Medical Schools, and numerous other hospitals and research centres. These are the obvious and blatant examples of fraud. The not-so-obvious frauds, the ones in fact staring us in the face, are ones like the three examples listed previously - useless research that benefits only the vivisectors, universities and hospitals, and the multi-national drug companies.

Dr. Gott's last line in his article is the most important; "...we will end up being victims of any con artist with a typewriter and a laboratory full of rats."

Freebird

Sources:

The Economist, May 4, 1985: "People are not rats"

The Toronto Star, November 30, 1985: "Fighting effect of cigarettes Scientists aim"

York Sunday News, July 7, 1985: "Doctors Can Fall Victim to Research"

Unknown source and date: "Cocaine three times deadlier than heroin"

Copies of these articles are available by sending a stamped, self-addressed envelope.

ACTION REPORTS

Oak Ridges, Ontario: December 1985

ALF Activists raided the yard of an old house in Oak Ridges and rescued eight dogs from deplorable conditions. Because the "owner" is a known animal abuser, a warning was painted on his fence as well as slogans. The dogs were successfully adopted within two days.

Toronto Actions

December 13, 1985:

Several fur stores had their locks jammed with toothpicks and superglued.

December 14, 1985:

A two-foot hole was cut in a fence caging Arctic Wolves at the Toronto Zoo, allowing 13 wolves to escape. All were eventually recaptured. A $10,000 reward was posted for the capture of the "vandals". **(This action was unclaimed.)**

December 21, 1985:

Two fur stores had locks glued.

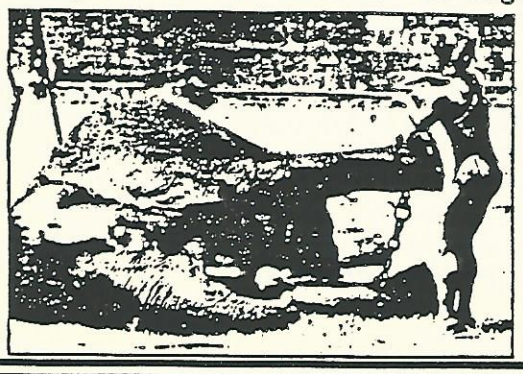
A Kentucky Fried Chicken outlet had locks glued and was spray-painted with blood-red "Meat is Murder" slogans. The "bucket" sign had a hole smashed in it by a brickbat.

January 3, 1986:

Seventeen fur stores had their locks jammed with pieces of broken toothpicks. One store, Victory Furs on Bloor, had been hit once before and now has a notice on the door warning that its door and windows are now electrified with 120 volts when closed! Don't be fooled by this ridiculous claim.

January 20, 1986:

A pile of cat excrement left on doorstep of Victory Furs. **The kitties' revenge!!**



Zoo Frustration

On December 14th, 13 Arctic Wolves were set free from the Toronto Zoo, where a two-foot hole was cut in the fence. Although this action was unclaimed by any persons or group, considering that they would have had to walk five kilometres and climb a fence to get to the site, it seems unlikely that it was mere "vandals" as the press and zoo officials claim.

In my opinion, I'm glad whoever did this did not claim it on behalf of an animal liberation group. It was definitely an animal liberation action, but they never completed the job. How can you let the wolves escape from their prison into the general population? They should have been herded into a vehicle and transported north or to an isolated area. It's like rescuing animals from labs without any homes for them to go to. The wolves were pretty lucky that the zoo officials did't shoot them, as they were suggesting they would, even though they admitted the wolves posed little danger to the public. They were all recaptured within eight days.

Regarding the effect on the wolves, author Farley Mowat summed it up pretty well: "They all must be very confused right now. These are desocialized wolves living in abnormal conditions, but they are responding to instinctive patterns."

The "vandals" were also branded "terrorists" by the zoo chairman, and a $10,000 reward was placed on their capture and conviction.

Unquestionably, we have to oppose zoos for the inhumane prisons that they are, the laboratory breeding grounds that they are, and the degrading and cheap "entertainment" for the pathetic human primates that support this establishment. But let's hope people have more sense when undertaking these types of liberations! If you can't do it right, don't do it at all!

Ann Ayelefer

ACTION REPORTS Cont'd....

NEW ALF CELL FORMED

A new cell of activists has been formed in southern Ontario for direct action activities against those who profit from the pain and death of animals. No significant actions to report yet, other than jamming sharp objects into the radiators of a couple of fur-delivery trucks and the usual graffiti slogans in high-traffic areas. No immediate plans, but stay tuned for a report in the future. It's **worth the risk, but don't get caught!**

Suburban Existentialist

LETTERS

To Whom It May Concern:

While I am in full support of the ALF Movement, I do have difficulty in the area of Animal Liberators destroying equipment and paint-spraying offices and/or labs. Don't get me wrong! I understand the anger and frustration one feels towards these establishments and the experimentors BUT should we not stop for just a minute and think of the effect of this action being reported to the general public whose tax dollars are paying for this damage and the replacement of equipment? Personally, I feel that a well-worded note (no abuse) left in the lab would do more good in terms of public relations for the ALF Movement. I really think the ALF would achieve more in terms of public support and respect by resisting the urge to destroy what the public sees or is quickly told is their property. I realize that sometimes it is hard to curb our tongues and actions when we see something which makes us feel extreme anger, but we must never allow that anger to over-ride our main aim, which is to educate the public to these abuses, which, in turn, will liberate these animals we all care about so much.

Anonymous in Toronto

In response to the above letter, I can only say that while your concern for the "image" of the ALF in the public eye is well-meaning, you have missed the entire point of the direct action tactics of the ALF. Although we agree that public education of the atrocities committed by vivisectors is important and desirable, these issues are largely unresolvable in the short-term. Our view is that the torture and killing must be stopped **NOW**! While thousands of animals are in peril daily, we do not have a lot of time to consider the ramifications of P.R. - Good or bad. To go into a laboratory or an office and leave a note addressed, "Dear Experimentor", is redundant at best. Believe me, if any group of people is aware of the horrors of vivisection, it is the vivisectors themselves! I am convinced that mere words would have little effect - actions speak louder!
The ALF's purpose is the cessation of experimentation on animals. This not only requires that we rescue the victims of experimentation, but also that we destroy the means of torture. The animals are easily replaced - an endless supply of innocents for slaughter is bred, bound and bartered in a barbaric trade - but laboratory equipment is not so easily replaced. By destroying the tools of torture, we are buying time for the victims..... time to plan, time to act, time to save lives. **The time is now!**
2T

As a further note to the above, in the latest ALF-SG Newsletter from England (#17) in an article entitled "As a Protest?", the author makes some important points.

"To be truly effective, ALF action must go beyond and be seen (especially by those who carry it out) to go beyond, mere acts of protest. The ALF must exist and see itself to exist, not just as another protest group but as an organization whose actions are intended to directly bring about change.

Animals should always be rescued whenever possible, but the main aim of ALF actions must not be protest, but economic sabotage."
He ends by saying, (and with my full agreement), **"Not minimum damage but maximum destruction."**

Freebird

The following letters appeared in the Toronto weekly "Now" Magazine during November and December of 1985. It started when I wrote the first letter complaining of the two images shown in the November 7th issue. What followed was a short debate that lasted for a total of eight weeks, ending with the Support Group placing an ad on the 'Letters' page. With circulation of 65,000 and an estimated readership of 120,000, (mostly a politicized readership). The use of the letters section in this and any newspaper is an excellent way to educate and outreach.

Photo stance anti-animal

NOW: Nov. 14/85

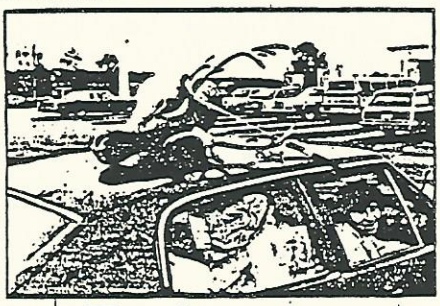
I would like to protest the anti-animal stance your last issue seemed to take. As I opened the magazine to your first two pages, I was shocked first to see the utterly disgusting picture of a murdered moose and a leering woman on page three and then the TV Ontario ad with the rat in the measuring glass on page two.

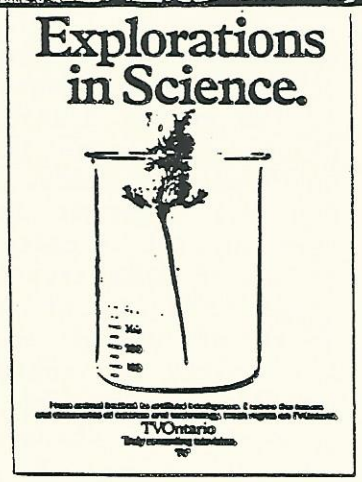
The page three picture is an atrocious affront to any sane, feeling person. Blood sports are cruel and sadistic; the glory of killing a live, beautiful animal with a high-powered rifle is a mental sickness in our society.

Perhaps the TV Ontario ad is harder to complain about, as no obvious harm is being done to the rat. But the underlining implication that vivisection (animal experimentation) is "okay" or "rewarding," is well obvious. Millions upon millions of animals die at the hands (and instruments of torture) of so-called researchers every year. Researchers bolster their egos by having their "research" published, thereby having better chances of receiving more grants and donations for more "research," abling themselves to kill more animals for "science," and getting richer in the process. All in the name of "science" and "it's good for mankind." If they could only feel the pain they cause the animals.

Animal science and blood sports are no longer things to "oooh" and "ahh" about; they are two more of *mank*ind's sick traditions that must be stopped.

David Barbarash
for the Animal Liberation Front
Support Group
Toronto





Animal fans know nothing about moose

NOW: Nov. 21/85

Reader David Barbarash might have done well to swallow his "shock" at NOW's recent page three picture (Letters, November 14-20). A closer examination of the murdered moose was not, nor had the deceased ever been, a moose. It looks more like an elk, *Cervus canadensis*, a rare find in local parking lots. I have a sneaking suspicion that it is also plastic, and that it never was a "live, beautiful animal."

The Animal Liberation Front might consider hiring a new spokesman, one who actually knows something about the animals to be liberated. But that hope, too, is perhaps in vain. The animal rights group has shown off its colours once more; it is an urban-based movement of effete, sheltered aesthetes, who have never drawn water from anywhere but a tap. Where were they when real conservation groups were trying to get the province's wolf bounty lifted? On the strength of Barbarash's letter, it would take little to convince me that the movement knows little, and cares less, about animals.

By the by, the white thing in the beaker is a mouse.

James Whyte
Toronto

Of enemies and allies

NOW: Nov 21/85

I would like the opportunity to respond to David Barbarash's self-righteous attack on my photograph of the woman in the car with the caribou head tied to the roof.

In his letter last week Barbarash claims that my photograph has an anti-animal stance. Surely he cannot believe that the photograph advocates that people race out with high-power rifles so that they too may decorate the roofs of their cars with dead animal heads.

The people in the car were poor migrant workers in northern Florida. I was drawn to the image not because it was a stylish advertisement for blood-sports but because it presented an ironic encapsulation of the American Frontier Myth — a myth gone awry at the side of an expressway, shabby and sad, yet humourous when viewed ironically.

For irony to work in an image a certain ambiguity needs to be present. Perhaps it is this ambiguity which has confused Barbarash. A good photograph, it seems to me, has ambiguity implanted in it like a Rorschach design. The viewer's response tells more about his mind than about the photograph itself, which is a template from reality. Barbarash's indignant anger is, I believe, well justified; but not against my photograph. He would do well to more carefully discern ally and enemy in the subtle battle against barbaric greed and technological dehumanization.

I would like to thank Barbarash, however, for the strength of his response to my photograph; it is precisely what I seek as an image-maker — to arouse and question, to entertain and engage.

Lawrence Acland
Toronto

Animal lib too romantic

NOW: NOV 28/85

Animal liberationist David Barbarash's recent analysis of the motivations of researchers (November 14-20, 1985) showed remarkable confusion about what scientific research is all about.

Researchers don't publish in order to "bolster their egos" any more than potato farmers grow potatoes to bolster their egos. The job of a researcher is to provide new scientific information; this is done in published papers. Any academic scientist who doesn't publish is not doing his or her job. Also, Barbarash should realize that researchers aren't able to enrich themselves as their research grants grow larger. The person's salary is unchanged; the grant money goes toward lab supplies, business services and the funding of employees and students.

The thing that gets me about Barbarash's "researcher-as-ogre" motif is its blatant romanticism. I'm against cruelty towards animals (and don't do animal-related research myself), but there's something fundamentally corrupt about Barbarash's distorted portrayal of the medical research in which animals are used. I can't help but feel that Barbarash's fight is really against a particular destiny-controlling attitude that many people have (including many people who are *not* cruel), and that the lab animal represents for him the same poor, suffering icon of uncontrolling "innocence" that the fetus represents for the anti-abortion movement. I'm in sympathy with Barbarash's legitimate concern for animal welfare, but I'm opposed to his romantic political agenda for humans.

Richard Summerbell
Toronto

Readers are specieist

NOW: DEC. 5/85

I have been labelled an "effete, sheltered aesthete" who "knows little and cares less about animals" by James Whyte (November 21-27, Letters); "self-righteous" by Lawrence Acland (November 21-27, Letters); and a confused romantic with a "corrupt" portrayal of vivisection by Richard Summerbell (November 28-December 4, Letters).

How could an animal liberation letter (November 14-20) cause such angry and defensive reactions from these three people, who all subtly suggest that they are in fact pro-animal?

How nice.

So how come they all feel compelled to attack me and the animal liberation movement? Why the hypocrisy? Could it be because of the radical nature of the group I belong to — the Animal Liberation Front Support Group (not the Animal Liberation Front)? Would they be happier if I were to join a "real (sic) conservation group" like Whyte implies?

I would rather support a group of people who liberate animals *now*, and cause financial damage and loss to animal abusers and institutions, rather than give my bucks to lobby groups who sit on their ass and money to support their bureaucracies and hierarchies (like the Toronto Humane Society which sits on $7 million that doesn't move, or the Massachusetts SPCA which sits on $50 million!). And then they wait to see if they can please the powers-that-be enough to get a law passed or changed, or set up an official so-called animal welfare group like the Canadian Council on Animal Care which has 14 anti-animal people (including the pharmaceutical industry and the Department of National Defence) and only two pro-animal people (from the Canadian Federation of Human Societies).

Well, no thanks! The liberation of the three cats and a (non-herpes-infected) monkey from the University of Western Ontario last New Year's Eve was worth 1,000 hours of lobbying and boot-kissing to our so-called representatives. Let's represent the animals ourselves; certainly they can't do it alone or with governments. If an animal is being tortured in a lab, well let's free it! How long would it take you folks to do if it were a human primate instead of an animal primate? What's the difference?

This gets to the crux of the issue — Whyte, Acland and Summerbell will all suggest that they're really concerned about animals, but will do nothing more than attack a person who speaks out against two portrayals of animal abuse. Why? Because they're *specieist*. It's the same as racist. Remember the

Cont'd...

"nigger lovers?" Now we have "animal lovers." First we were fighting for equal human rights (which we still don't have), and for the past 100 years we've also been fighting for animal rights and equality, and we're still viewed as nutcases and fanatics. As the underground railroad liberated thousands of slaves in past times, the Animal Liberation Front is liberating thousands of animals here and *now*. Humans will always have their own voices; animals never.

If researcher Summerbell is "in sympathy," why doesn't he speak out against his colleagues? Or is he more concerned about getting grants or having his work published, as dissenting voices are always suppressed? If photographer Acland is an "ally," does he take pictures of animals in their natural surroundings? Or only dead ones on top of cars (for the irony, of course)? And if academic Whyte is concerned about the wolf bounty or other issues, why is he so strong in his attack of the animal liberation movement? Or does he think that being smart (i.e. knowing Cervus canadensis = elk) and writing a letter to NOW is enough?

Why all this hypocrisy? Let's have more action and less complaining of the animal movement!

David Barbarash
for the ALFSG
Toronto

Animal supporter DEC 12/85

NOW:

Re: Letters, December 5-11/85 & November 21 through to December 5/85.

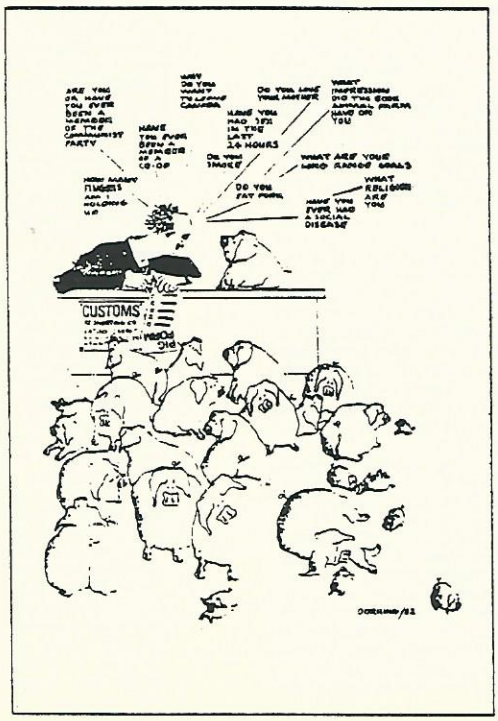
Three cheers to David Barbarash of the AFLSG for his apt response to anti-animal liberationists James Whyte, Lawrence Acland and Richard Summerbell.

In the past several weeks (since moving to T.O.) I have tried in vain to locate and become involved with just such an *action-oriented* animals rights group. If NOW could pass my name and address on the ALFSG, or else give me a number to contact for more info, I would be eternally grateful! (Despite your lack of judgement in printing Acland's revolting photo, that is.)

Cyndi Bazan
Toronto

Beside this final supportive letter on December 7th, I received two phone calls; one after my first letter on November 15th asking for more information about the S.G., and one on November 22nd after my second letter by an unknown man who left this message on my answering machine: "Hi! I just want to say 'Thank You' for that letter. In particular, for introducing the concept of speciesism. Thanks a whole lot!"

Our ad brought in approximately 15 letters of enquiry.



Dear Friends:

I don't know how I got through it, but in order to be able to debate more intelligently, I read "Animal Liberation" and have just finished "Slaughter of the Innocent".

I really believe the tactics of the ALF are the most important in order to effect change. When I grew up in Maryland, in a suburb of Washington D.C., I was right there with Martin Luther King's famous speech, gathering all those people together. I saw it all and he was a wonderful leader in the same way that Gandhi led his people.

Unfortunately, King's tactics can only work when you gather a very large group (in the thousands) and take to the streets. This brings news coverage and therefore, you can make your point by peaceful means.

What makes me mad is that if we counted all the animal organization memberships in the United States, Canada and everywhere else, or just North America, we have thousands, but none of them can get together to do an action or take to the streets in order to gain a lot of news coverage. Maybe someday there will be one animal rights leader equal to Gandhi and King to get us all united in action and we'd pounce on the scene so dramatically that we would cause changes.

This hasn't happened, and since it hasn't, we need the ALF, because that is the only other way to get our message spread.

All through reading "Slaughter of the Innocent" I was out for blood and would have loved to see a vivisectionist get the same torture he gives the animals. But after thinking about it for some days after finishing the book, I feel that the ALF would lose support if, by accident, an innocent person was killed as a result of an ALF action. I do believe in any destruction of research property and the taking of animals from labs. Liberating animals, destroying property

Cont'd...

LETTERS - Continued

and writing slogans on walls will make people think about the ANIMALS and ask questions. Any real violence towards people or their children, i.e., poison candy, even if only a scare, will make the public only see terrorists and not think of the animals.

The ALF is the best thing that has happened to the animal movement since it started hundreds of years ago. I realize one important thing; that many really dedicated animal activists in the more conservative movements, without even realizing it, could still have remnants of speciesism. When you talk to them about breaking and entering or smashing property and stealing animals, they put up a guard and say, "we can't do that", yet, if this was in World War II Germany, the same people would have no hesitation in forming an underground to save the human animals in concentration camps. Therefore, these conservative animal activists are seeing animals as having less importance than the human animal, but thank God for the ALF for seeing them as having equal consideration.

Joanne Schwab. Toronto

"All that is necessary for the triumph of evil is that good men (and women) do nothing."

Burke.

"Stop worrying, Sophie! They're a lower species, they don't feel things the way we do."

Trapping indefensible

JAN. 26 TOR. STAR

Re, Joe Hermer's letter defending trappers (Jan. 9). It seems ludicrous to claim that slaughtering animals, leg-hold trap or not, is humane and compassionate.

Killing or maiming a dog is considered cruel and is illegal, but do other sentient, fur-bearing creatures have no right to live?

This cruelty only continues because of the selfish and vain people who wear the animals' corpses as a status symbol. They deserve to step into a leg-hold trap. Furs are for beasts.

DEBORAH FISHER
Toronto

Inhumane treatment of animals must end

Re, the story, Barbaric leghold trap silences lonely call of Niagara's wolves (Dec. 2). I wish there was something I could do besides cry about the inhumane treatment of animals.

I guess I just have to wait for the human race to become more civilized. They're making great progress in other areas — discouraging smoking where I'm eating, dealing harshly with drunken drivers.

But what can I do in the meantime to alleviate all that suffering?

DEC. 16/85 TOR. STAR

DONNA CUTHBERTSON
Islington

Sitting idle won't stop suffering of animals

JAN. 6/86 STAR

Re, Donna Cuthbertson's letter (Dec. 16), which asks what she can do to help alleviate animal suffering. If she decides to just "wait for the human race to become more civilized," I believe she's in for quite a wait — a few centuries perhaps.

Donna Cuthbertson, and every other person who loves and respects animals, can do many things *right now* to help eliminate animal abuse and suffering on all levels in 1985. You can join groups pushing for legislative change, or you can take direct action to stop this abuse.

The point is, don't sit around crying about animal suffering, do something about it! Anything!

DAVID BARBARASH
Toronto

Cont'd from page 5

In the final article we're looking at, we start off with a graphic showing a photograph of a monkey, with a research device added by an "artist" to the monkey's head, set on graph paper with a new-wave look. Pretty sick! Robert Fulford begins with a sensible comment, that we seek "nothing less than a basic change in human thinking..." This is true! Unfortunately, the article deteriorates rapidly. It continues by giving a rundown on the campaign and tactics used regarding B43 at the University of Western Ontario, calls us cranks, and insinuates that the ALF "frightened" B43 to get good pictures!

In the second half of the article he gives a brief historical overview of the movement citing Peter Singer as starting the modern-day activism, and, as Peter Worthington does, remarks on the parallels we draw in our arguments. But Robert Fulford does not accept the speciesist argument. He states that our logic breaks down when he asks the question, "is there any difference between a child and an animal?" Without offering any (speciesist) answer, he claims there is a difference.

We all know that humans and animals are of differenct species, but we all feel pain, emotion, hunger, etc. I don't think Mr. Fulford feels anything but elitism and superiority!!

(Copies of these articles are available from the S.G. for a stamped, self-addressed envelope.)

LETTERS - Continued

Dear Friends of the S.G.:

Here's a bit of foreign correspondence for you. I recently heard on the news that Scotland Yard has set up a special squad to keep an eye on certain animal rights activists. Ronnie Lee, spokesperson for the ALF, said this will in no way deter the direct action tactics of the ALF members. He said that not everyone is willing to face imprisonment for a cause they believe in, but there are a lot of people who are and the number is growing all the time.

More News: Bombs were planted in four locations around the country. (Vivisectors' homes) In one case, the bomb was planted under a car belonging to a "doctor" doing research into epilepsy; he uses primates (which were shown in the news rocking back and forth in their 2' x 2' cages). Apparently, it wasn't certain that the bombs had been set to go off. Either the police or vivisectors had been warned beforehand, so the Bomb Squad was sent in to detonate them. It seems they believe that at least one bomb was set to go off. The group claiming responsibility is called the **"Animal Rights Militia"**. It seems they caused a bit of a stir about three years ago, only I'm afraid that that particular incident has slipped my mind.

(Ed. Note: The ALF-SG Newsletter from England (#17) has the communique from the Animal Rights Militia regarding their actions. This newsletter is available from us for $2.00.)

While I'm all for employing scare tactics against these torturing bastards, I'm not so sure about using bombs (that are set to go off), as long as there's any risk of someone getting hurt. If that ever happens, it's going to strike a big blow against the animal rights movement. It seems to me that by employing methods such as these, we are lowering ourselves to their level. These tactics will be construed as fighting violence with violence. If we are to gain support, the public must see us as being of a different calibre to those slimebags out there!

Anyway, when it comes right down to it, all I really want is to end this madness as soon as possible - (like **NOW!!**) Sometimes, when I think of all the sick things done to animals I almost don't care what methods are used to stop the atrocities.

Tarah for now,

D.H., England - (On Assignment!)

Hello! Thanks for your letter and support. Here's the latest list of prisoners. Quite a few people were given stiff sentences last month - (at least compared to the ICI sentencing where the longest prison sentence was 3 months with another 6 suspended).

We did hear from friends of Angus McInnes that he had received a letter from you and was pretty pleased about it. Sorry, we cannot help you as to whether the others got their letters as we're not in direct contact with them, because of the limited number of letters they can send out. Thanks for writing to them all. Hope you can send support to all the new prisoners. Keep in touch. Love and anger,

H. Steel for S.A.R.P. (Support Animal Rights Prisoners), Box 101, 84b Whitechapel High Street, London E1, England.

(Ed. Note: S.A.R.P. aims to help and provide for animal rights prisoners in England. If anyone has knowledge of such prisoners in North America, please send all the details to the Canadian Support Group at our P.O. Box.)

GENERAL NEWS OF PRISONERS:

John Curtin received a 9-month sentence with 3 months suspended. He had already served this time on remand and has now been released, as he was given bail for his charge connected to digging up the grave of the Duke of Beaufort.

Steve Symonds and Graham Mitchell have been released on parole. Dave Babbington and Carlo Hanshaw, if not released already are due out very soon, (no up-todate information on them)! Andrew Horbury, Steve Burrows, Paul Harvey, Dave Callender and Robin Smith have also been released.

Cont'd..

Mark Houghton, Martin Gomez (who both received 3 months) and Helen Sinclair (1 month), sent to prison for damaging meat lorries, have all been released.

Shirley Clarke, Julie Edwards, Brett Jackson and Mike Hayes who were each sentenced to 6 months for going equipped to cause arson at a building that was going to be used to keep animals for vivisection at Leeds University, have all been released.

Note: For more information about the Wickham Trial and prisoners, or to make donations, contact: Wickham Defence Fund, Enfield Animal Rights, P.O. Box 133, Enfield, Middlesex EN3 6DS, England.

LIST OF PRISONERS - December 1985:

Iain McCann (J92353) - Serving a four-year sentence for an arson attack on vehicles at Cottage Patch Kennels at Fareham, Hants. (The kennels provide dogs for vivisection).

Gordon Bryant (J92309) - 21 months, 9 suspended.

Kevin Williams (J92279) - 6 months, 3 suspended.

Mike Nunn (J92297) - 3 years.

John Quirke (J92284) - 18 months, 9 suspended.

All of the above can be reached at HM Prison, Romsey Road, Winchester, Hants. SO22 5DF, England.

Sally Miller (D22865) - 18 months, 6 suspended.

Sue Baker (D22862) - 9 months, 4 suspended.

Sally and Sue are located at H.M.Y.C.C. and Prison, East Sutton Park, Sutton Valance, Maidstone, Kent, ME17 3DF, England.

With the exception of Iain they were sentenced on December 4, 1985 after being convicted of conspiring to burgle Wickham Research Laboratories and associated premises.

Materials Available From the S.G.

From Freedom mazagine: "An ALF Special", (May 1981) - 40¢

From PETA NEWS: "The City of Hope Medical Centre Raid" - 15¢

From the Animals' Agenda: "The Head Injury Lab Break-in" - 25¢

From Kick it Over: "Sharing the World with Animals" and the New Year's Eve raid in London, Ontario - 30¢

Animalines: "Stop the Machine" - Free

From England: ALF Action Reports, Issue #1 - Free

From ARK II: Various leaflets dealing with alternatives to and the use of animals in experimentation; dissection, psychological experiments, information on cruelty-free products, etc. - Free

From ARK II Activist: ALF Editorial - Free

From England: The ALF-SG Newsletter, (#'s 4, 6, 8-16) - $1 each. #17 - $2

From England: Direct-Action Animal Bulletin (#5) - $1

Front Line News: (#1) - 25¢

"In Defense of Animals": Edited by Peter Singer - $6.95

"1986 Animals' Diary: loaded with graphics and useful information with room to write notes - $7.95

Buttons: $1 each

Vivisectors are Scum
Boycott Zoos
Meat is Murder
ARK II
Animal Liberation/Human Liberation
Against Pound Seizure
ALF Supporters' Group

"Support The ALF" T-Shirt - $6 unemployed or $8 employed.

Ceramic Figures: The ALF Liberator Series, Limited Edition - $5 each

Please add extra money for postage